

# WEST PERTH FIRE DEPARTMENT

2022 YEAR  
IN REVIEW



# INTRODUCTION

Another very successful, rewarding, and memory filled year of education, prevention and emergency response is how we would describe 2022, if we had to.

For the third year in a row, we are excited to bring you a year in review report that takes you on a pictorial journey of all the services that our Fire Department provides to the West Perth community. From our public education team that is determined to make sure everyone knows the value of a working smoking alarm and a home escape plan, to our prevention team that ensures our buildings are fire safe and meeting code, to providing emergency assistance to those who were quite likely having one of their worst days. Our team has continued to work relentlessly to keep our residents safe.

As always, as you go through our year in review we hope you enjoy and appreciate the community connection, leadership, and commitment of our team members to enhancing our communities' wellbeing. We are all proud to be a part of the West Perth Fire Department.

Sincerely,

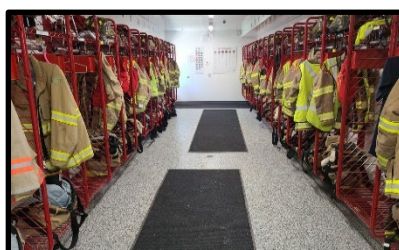
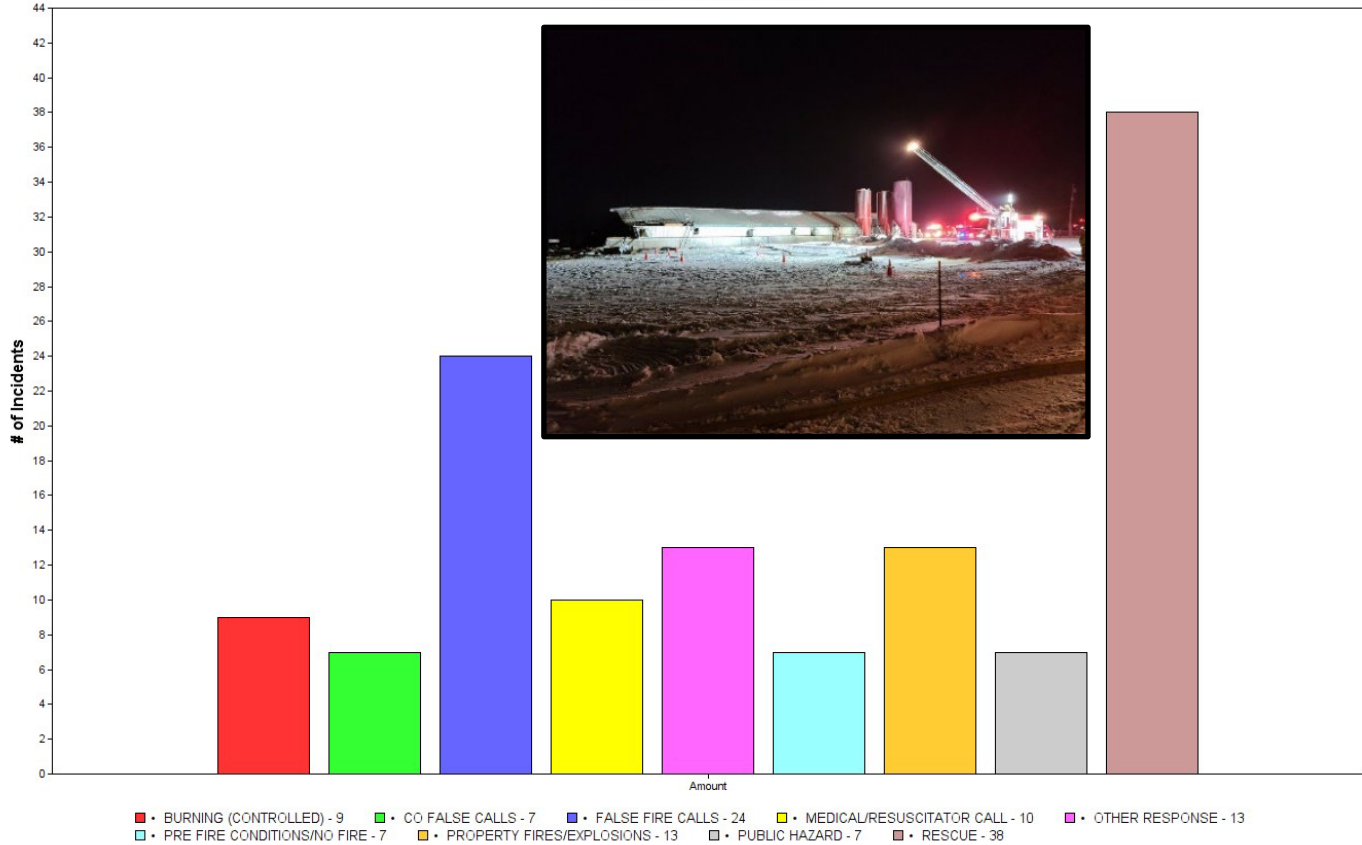
## **THE WPDF TEAM**

**Do what you can, with all you have, wherever you are.** Theodore Roosevelt



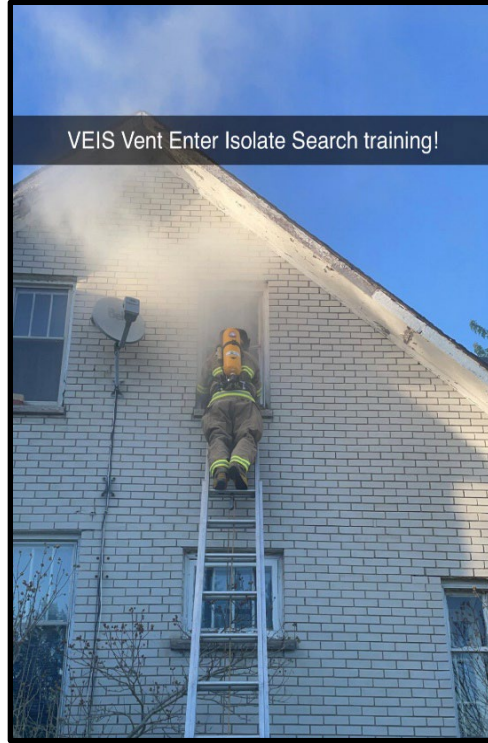
# 2022 INCIDENT RESPONSE DATA SNAPSHOT

Totals by Type (grouped)  
From Jan 1 22 to Dec 31 22



Total Number of Alarms	128
Total number of alarm hours	3254
Average number of firefighters responding to an alarm	12
Average alarm length	2 hours
Average time from dispatch receiving the 911 call to our arriving on scene	11 min.
Average time from dispatch receiving the 911 call to our arriving on scene for a fire	11 min.
Total dollar loss	3.3 million
Total value saved	3.4 million
Total Staff Hours of Training	572 hours

# TRAINING



This year we were grateful to be back to our regular training sessions twice a month. The continuity of our training is essential. With the many skills needed to perform our jobs safely and effectively, well trained firefighters are our greatest resource.

In partnership with PEFD, multiple members attended a successful in-house pump operations course and we plan to provide more courses in order to comply with provincial training regulations by 2026.

We also had several members attend training courses through external regional training centers. If there is one thing we all have in common it is the drive to learn and train in order to provide the best emergency service possible for our residents.

# COMMUNITY





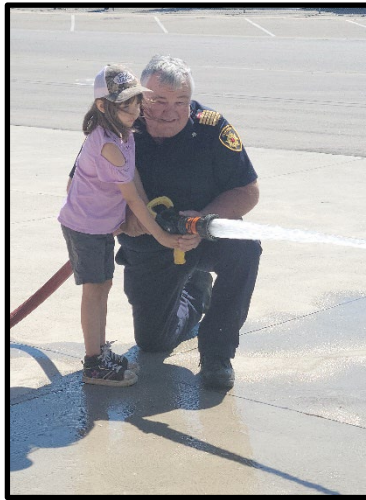
Whether it was a community breakfast supporting the purchase of an AED machine, a boot tool for MD, a helping hand at the demolition derby or giving a ride in a fire truck to some lucky kids, you could find our firefighters out in our community. As the saying goes, we are more than just fires! The dedication that our crew has not only to helping those who are in need of emergency assistance, but also to those in our communities who need our support in daily living, is humbling.

This year we witnessed what it looks like when we receive support from our entire community as well as surrounding areas and our emergency service partners. In March, the WPFDD experienced a very unforgettable tragedy involving the drowning of a young girl. The unfortunate accident took the support of many emergency service partners, including HASAR, OPP (dive teams, helicopter, ERT team, search canines & drones), Perth East FD, Northern Bruce Peninsula FD, Hanover FD, Oxford FD, Middlesex Center FD, North Perth FD, and St. Mary's FD. We were also generously supported from members of the public who helped provide search crews with food and refreshments. After a nine day search the recovery mission was successful, proving just how resilient our teams are and the lengths they are willing to go in order to bring peace and closure to a grieving family.

These incidents are the reason why we have put in place our Chaplin Bill Ney and our Peer Support Team, who are trained to help support members in dealing with Critical Incident Stress Management.

# PUBLIC EDUCATION ACTIVITY





**YOU'RE INVITED!**

**FIRE PREVENTION WEEK 2022**

FIRE WON'T WAIT. PLAN YOUR ESCAPE.

**Join us for a fun evening of activities, hot dogs/refreshments & fire safety!!!**

**West Perth Fire Station - Mitchell**  
Tuesday Oct. 11th, 6pm - 8pm

**CONTEST**

- Complete & practice your Home Escape Plan
- Bring your escape plan to a FPW Open House to receive a ballot
- Bring it to the municipal office by October 14th to receive a ballot

**PRIZE**

Firefighters will deliver a pizza dinner for your family in our fire truck!!!

The most impactful line of fire defence we have, yet the hardest to see the positive outcomes for is Public Education. We will probably never know how many residents we have reached, who went home and checked/tested their smoke alarm, made a home escape plan, had their fuel burning appliances checked or their chimney swept. However, these are the actions/behaviours we teach that will ultimately keep our residents fire/carbon monoxide safe and prevent emergencies from happening in our communities.

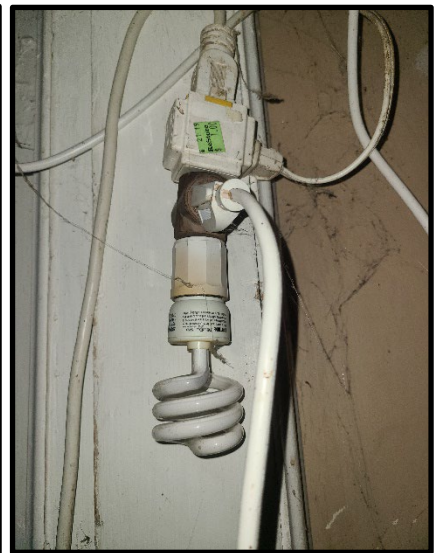
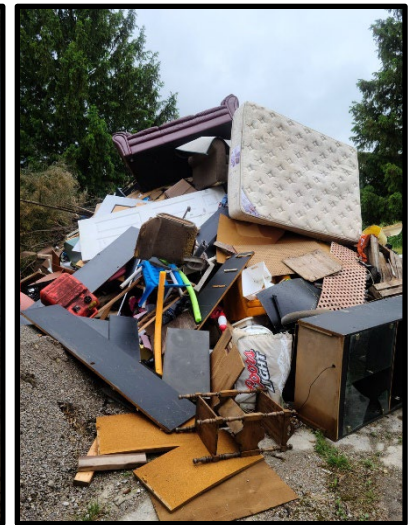
This year we were able to spread our fire safety messaging in so many different ways, including school visits, the Stratford Home Show, station tours, recreation camps, radio advertising and of course through our popular social media channels.



The theme for Fire Prevention Week this year was “Fire won’t wait. Plan your Escape.” The focus was on the importance of having a home escape plan (HEP) and practicing it with your family. Our Public Education team was very excited to be able to host our traditional open house again. The event featured our fire safety house, truck tours, bunker gear try-on, hose spraying station, a water on grease fire demonstration as well as hot dogs, drinks and lots of fire safety giveaways! We also hosted a HEP contest where residents could complete their HEP and get a ballot to be entered to win a family pizza dinner delivered in a fire truck! We had over 50 entries! That’s over 50 families in our communities who now know what to do when the smoke/CO alarm sounds.



# FIRE PREVENTION, INVESTIGATION & INSPECTION





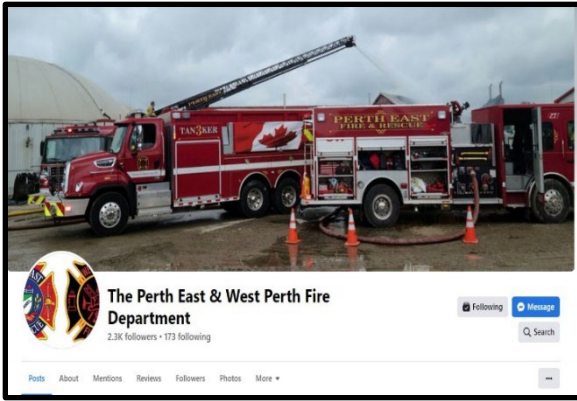
All complaints were addressed and any fire code compliance issues were remedied either immediately or through the OFM order process. All schools, daycares and vulnerable occupancies were inspected, and drilled, as required through the Ontario Fire Marshal's directions. All county housing was inspected.

This year we continued to build on our strong working relationships with the OPP, Stratford Police, OFM, TSSA, ESA, Community Living, Huron Perth Family Services and CAS. We have been able to work with our partners to remedy several heavy content situations, which created dangerous conditions for residents and first responders. It is not uncommon that heavy content issues fall on the fire department. We have been able to achieve full compliance with these extremely heavy content residences.

We continue to spend a great deal of time just stopping and talking to people. This includes inspecting every building demolished for a controlled burn to proactively ensure they are meeting with the by law. It also includes stopping in when time allows to open air burns to verify permits and make contact with the property owners. This gives us a chance to answer other questions and hear what is going on in the community.

Through strong communication we have been able to gain fire code compliance through Fire Marshals Orders and ongoing contact with property owners. We have found several properties this year that were not being used as per their design. In working closely with the Building department we have worked towards reducing risk and correcting the non-permitted usage.

# 2022 SOCIAL MEDIA



We are not sure how much longer we can keep up this momentum, but for now we will take the social media love we have received from all of our followers. We surpassed our numbers yet again in 2022. We had almost 3.5 million impressions (2.6m in 2021) and over 232,000 direct visits (61,000 in 2021) to our Twitter profile. We also managed to get almost 1000 more people to like us, which brings us to a grand total of 4250 followers from around the world, who continue to listen and share our Fire Safety messaging.

On our Facebook page we have also continued to reach and engage with our audience. We had 116,379 people engage with our posts and over 516,000 people were reached with our messaging in 2022. We are currently sitting at 2359 FB followers and growing by the day.

We recognize and respect the power of our social media messaging. During the unfortunate drowning incident and the winter storm at Christmas time, we were a source of reliable, timely and consistent fire and life safety information. We will continue to provide this excellent service to our community.

# DISPATCH SERVICES



The year of the great switch over...dispatch switch over that is! In 2022 we transitioned our emergency dispatch services from Stratford Fire Department to the Owen Sound Emergency Communications Centre.

The proposal received from Owen Sound was all encompassing with respect to staffing, services provided and the infrastructure they would provide as well as back-up systems. One of the main demands was the provision of next-generation 911 (NG911) services, a new technological requirement from the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission for all cellular service providers and emergency dispatchers that needs to be in place by June 2023. This technology ultimately helps dispatcher's better pinpoint the actual location of callers. Our first year with Owen Sound has been a great success and we look forward to our continued partnership.

Prepared By: Jess Jorritsma & James Marshall  
Reviewed By Fire Chief: Bill Hunter

**THANK YOU!**  
**WORKING SMOKE / CO**  
**ALARMS SAVE LIVES**

